

STATUS OF RWANDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

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Repatriation Statistics

- o The government of Rwanda estimates that over 600,000 new refugees have returned to Rwanda through January.
- o UNHCR's estimate of "new" refugees who have returned--principally from Zaire--is closer to 200,000.
- o In addition, it is estimated that perhaps as many as 600,000 "old" refugees, Tutsis who fled in 1959/early 60s, have also returned.
- o Complete returnee figures are difficult to come by as many of the "new" refugees choose to return at night or through unofficial border crossings.
- o It is widely believed that former Rwandan government and military authorities are intimidating refugees in the camps and spreading negative propaganda about conditions inside Rwanda in order to discourage repatriation.

Current Refugee Numbers

- o UNHCR's latest estimates are that there are just under 2 million Rwandan refugees in neighboring countries.

Burundi	243,000
Tanzania	603,409
Uganda	4,000
Zaire	1,149,000

- o Tanzania and Burundi continue to receive influxes of Rwandans. In Tanzania in the last few months, 1000-2000 refugees per week were arriving, many of them Rwandans coming from Burundi. As Rwandan internally displaced persons (IDP) camps are phased out, some IDPs are crossing the border and becoming refugees.
- o There are also some 216,000 Burundi refugees in Zaire, Tanzania and Rwanda.

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